



March 2, 2016

Connecticut Joint Committee on Public Health
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Joint Committee on Public Health Member:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society (COMS) are writing in support of SB 291 and SB 298. Both bills will promote greater access to health care by promoting the appropriate use of telemedicine and ensuring payment for services provided to patients in need. The AOA and COMS support the delivery of appropriate health care services utilizing online technology, online consultations and internet-based health programs, as well as coverage for such services by government and other third-party payers.

The AOA represents more than 123,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students, promotes public health, encourages scientific research, serves as the primary certifying body for DOs, is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical schools, and has federal authority to accredit hospitals and other health care facilities. More information on DOs/osteopathic medicine can be found at www.osteopathic.org. COMS is a professional organization that represents over 600 DOs providing patient care in Connecticut.

The practice of medicine via electronic and technological means has been occurring for decades. As technology advances and the breadth of medical practice in this area expands, there is an increasing need to support the delivery of health care through technological resources. Telemedicine provides improved access to medical care and services to patients in rural or distant areas, and allows for easier access to care for immobile patients and those with limited mobility. Cost-effectiveness, through reduced travel times, is an additional benefit of delivering health care services through telemedicine.

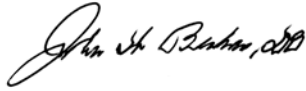
Easing administrative and financial burdens on the practice of telemedicine in Connecticut will allow patients in rural and remote areas, and those with limited mobility, to receive the care they need. **We support SB 291 and SB 298 and ask the Committee to pass these important items of legislation.** Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Nick Schilligo, MS, Associate Vice President, State Government Affairs at nschilligo@osteopathic.org or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8185.

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Sincerely,



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President, AOA



Gregory R. Czarnecki, DO
President, COMS

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